

ARES Summary
2012-1290

On 20 November 2012 Paul Wetzel and Brian Swartz of the USACE Buffalo District, Oak Harbor Ohio Field Office conducted a site visit to the ARES testing facility located on the northern end of the former Erie Industrial Park in Erie Township, Ottawa County, Ohio. Mr. Herbert Roder of ARES met the Corps representatives at the site. The site is an active weapons testing facility and at no time were the Corps representatives allowed to be without an escort. Also, due to the possibility of unexploded ordinances the Corps representatives were not allowed to entire into an area that had not been previously filled area, allowed to excavate soils or collected vegetation of areas that had not been previously filled. In addition, the Corps was not permitted west of the north south road which divided the facility into eastern and western sections.

Target Range Constructed 2012

The Corps visited the target range which was constructed in 2012 near the eastern property boundary. The site was filled in with approximately 3 to 4 feet of fill and was approximately 8.3 acres in size. Four wetland sampling points were established along the western side of the fill area, one along the north and four along the eastern side. An area was considered to be wetland if there was a predominance of wetland vegetation and the presence of indicators of wetland hydrology. This method is consistent with the 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual for conducting wetlands in atypical situations. In this case the atypical situation was the inability to excavate soils and to walk in undeveloped areas due to the possible presence of unexploded ordinances. The plots along the western side (Plots 1- 4) and northern edge (Plot 5) of the fill were determined to contain wetlands.

On the eastern side of the fill the northern sampling plot (Plot 6) was determined to be wetland. Sampling Plot 7 was recently cleared however it was determined to be upland lacking both positive indicators of hydrology and wetland vegetation however it was determined this area had been cleared previously in the year. Sampling Plot 8 was also determined to wetland and Sampling Plot 9 was upland.

During the site visit Mr. Roder stated they had not filled in any wetlands however admitted the western side of the fill area typically contained standing water throughout the earlier part of the year during up in June or July.

Pistol Range

The pistol range was located along the eastern side of the north south road. Mr. Roder indicated this area had been used as a pistol range for many years. When questioned when the area was filled he could not give a specific date and indicated both several years ago and never.

The pistol range area was surrounded by wetland vegetation and indicators of hydrology to the east and north and by existing roads to the west and south. Observed vegetation included reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) - FACW, phragmites (*Phragmites australis*) - FACW, narrow-leaf cat-tail (*Typha angustifolia*) - OBL, swamp rose mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*) - OBL, lakebank sedge (*Carex lacustris*) - OBL, rough-leaf dogwood (*Cornus drumondii*) - FAC, a sedge which appeared to be a member of the Ovales group possibly crested sedge (*Carex cristatella*) - FACW and an unknown aster and polygonum. Canada golden rod and swamp milkweed were observed growing through the fill. Indicators of hydrology included sediment deposits, water marks and inundation to the north. Based upon aerials it appears much of this area was filled in approximately 2009. This area was bordered by wetland vegetation and positive indicators of hydrology to the north and the east. Based upon aerials and 2006 LIDAR map it appears that approximately 4.26 acres of wetlands were filled to construct this range.

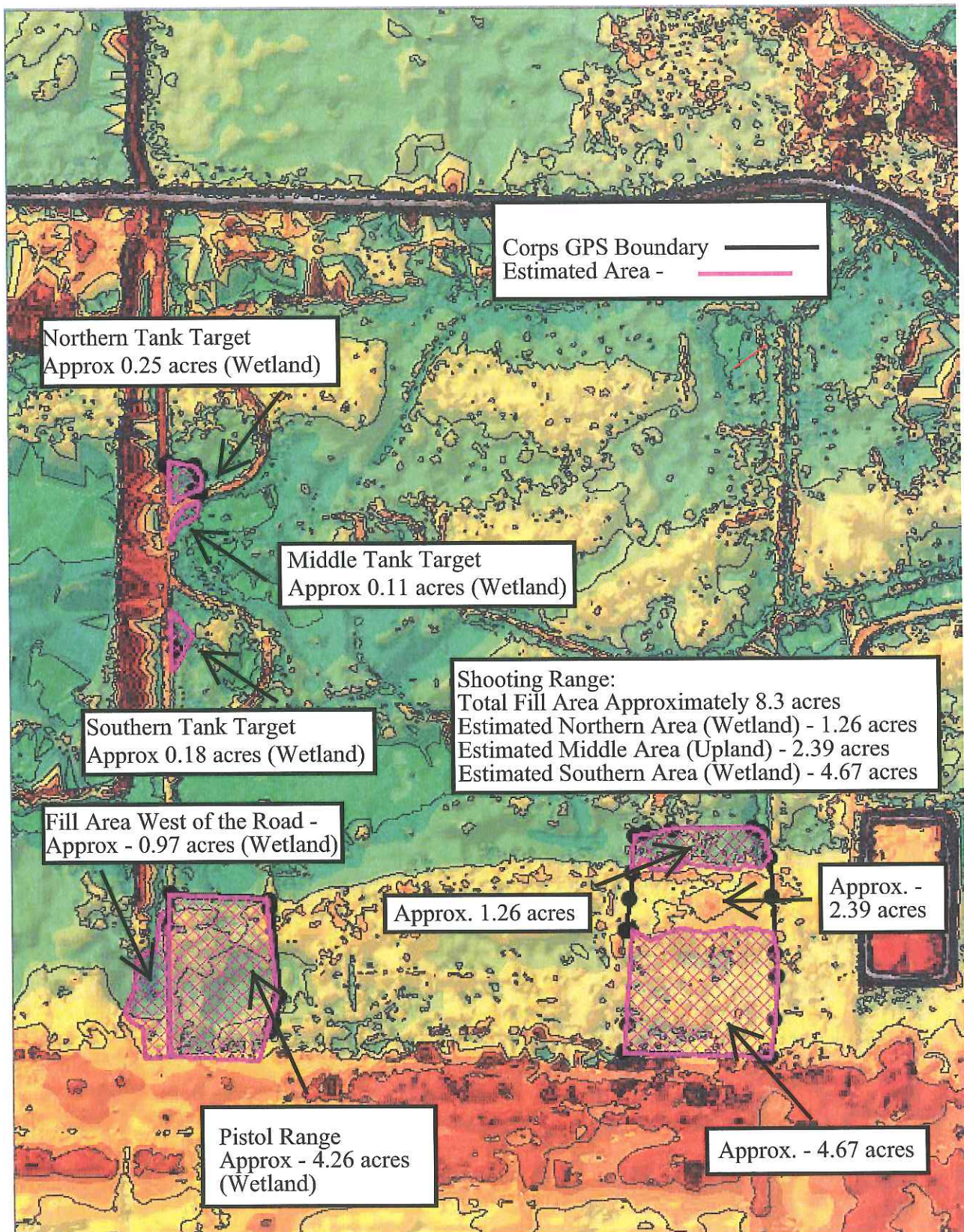
Area west of the pistol range

The area is very similar to the Pistol range and is surrounded by similar vegetation and indicators of hydrology. The USACE was not permitted access west of the north-south road as that side of the range was considered to be active. Based upon a comparison to the 2006 and 2011 aerials it appears area was filled circa 2009. Based upon aerials and 2006 LIDAR map it appears approximately 0.97-acre of wetlands were filled.

Tank Target Range

Based upon the 20 November 2012 site visit, review of aerials and the 2006 LIDAR map the Corps identified three areas of fill located north of the pistol range that reportedly hold tank targets. All three areas appear to have been filled sometime in 2009. The southern target area was approximately 0.18 acres and the middle target area approximately 0.11 acres.

There was recent filling activity around the northern target area with recent fill being identified in areas dominated by wetland vegetation with positive indicators of wetland hydrology. It was determined the recent fill area was approximately 0.11 acres which increased the total fill area to approximately 0.25 acres.



Site Notes

November 20, 2012

ARES West End

Pistol Range

The pistol range area was surrounded by wetland vegetation and indicators of hydrology to the east and north and by existing roads to the west and south. Observed vegetation included reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) - FACW, phragmites (*Phragmites australis*) - FACW, narrow-leaf cat-tail (*Typha angustifolia*) - OBL, swamp rose mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*) - OBL, lakebank sedge (*Carex lacustris*) - OBL, rough-leaf dogwood (*Cornus drumondii*) - FAC, a sedge which appeared to be a member of the Ovales group possibly crested sedge (*Carex cristatella*) - FACW and an unknown aster and polygonum. Canada golden rod and swamp milkweed were observed growing through the fill. Indicators of hydrology included sediment deposits, water marks and inundation to the north. This area appears to have contained standing water in the aeriels from Google Earth 2006 and Google Earth 2009 August 14. It appears the area was filled circa Google Earth aerial dated 31 August 2009.

Southern and Northern Target areas

The vegetation surrounding these two sites were similar to that observed around the pistol range to the south with similar indicators of hydrology. The northern target area contained recent fills. It is estimated the area of new fill is approximately 0.11 acre when compared to the 2011 aerial. This area appears to be a possible wetland in the Google Earth 2009 aerial dated. There were no apparent recent filling activities around the southern target area. Similar to the Pistol Range aerial photographs indicated this area contained standing water in 2006 and was filled sometime in 2009.

Area west of the pistol range

The area is very similar to the Pistol range and is surrounded by similar vegetation and indicators of hydrology. The USACE was not permitted access west of the road as that side of the range was considered to be active. Based upon a comparison to the 2006 and 2011 aeriels it appears the upland area was approximately 0.46 acres in 2006 and 1.03 acres at the time of our site visit with filling occurring circa 2009.